

# Colin Brown

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW · UBC LINGUISTICS

✉ colin.brown@ubc.ca | 🏠 www.colinbrown.site

## Academic Employment

---

### University of British Columbia, Department of Linguistics

Vancouver, BC

SSHRC POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

2024–Present

- Supervisor: Henry Davis

## Education

---

### University of California, Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA

PHD LINGUISTICS

2024

- PhD Dissertation: The form and function of interrogatives in Sm'algyax
- Committee: Yael Sharvit, Harold Torrence (co-chairs), Ethan Poole, Lisa Matthewson (UBC)

### McGill University

Montreal, QC

MA LINGUISTICS

2016

- MA Thesis: Extraction restrictions in Gitksan
- Committee: Jessica Coon, Lisa Travis

### University of British Columbia

Vancouver, BC

BA LINGUISTICS

2013

- Capstone projects: Semantics of Gitksan clefts; Sluicing in Wolof

## Publications

---

\* peer reviewed

### PUBLISHED

\***Colin Brown**. Bipartite question formation in Sm'algyax. *Glossa: a journal of general linguistics* 11(1).

doi: <https://doi.org/10.16995/glossa.20160>

\***Colin Brown**, Harold Torrence. 2025. On the clausal syntax of Dschang predicate focus doubling. In Akinbiyi Akinlabi, Sampson Korsah, Sharon Rose & Abdul-Razak Sulemana (eds.), *Cross-disciplinary approaches to Information Structure in Niger-Congo languages*, 215–243. Berlin: Language Science Press. DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.16875466

**Colin Brown**. 2025. Clause typing and clitic linearization in Gitksan. In *Papers for the 60th International Conference of Salish and Neighbouring Languages*. UBCWPL.

**Colin Brown**, Henry Davis. 2024. A second-last position clitic in Sm'algyax (Coast Tsimshian). *Proceedings from the 54th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 54)*. University of Massachusetts GLSA.

**Colin Brown**, Henry Davis. 2024. A second-last position clitic in Sm'algyax: the puzzle. *The title of this volume is shorter than its contributions are allowed to be: Papers in honour of Hotze Rullmann*. Vancouver, BC: UBC Occasional Papers in Linguistics, Volume 9.

Henry Davis, **Colin Brown**. 2024. A second-last position clitic in Sm'algyax: a solution. *The title of this volume is shorter than its contributions are allowed to be: Papers in honour of Hotze Rullmann*. Vancouver, BC: UBC Occasional Papers in Linguistics, Volume 9.

\***Colin Brown**. 2024. Questions and their relatives in Sm'algyax. *The International Journal of American Linguistics*. vol. 90, no. 3.

\***Colin Brown**. 2024. Conjectural questions in Sm'algyax. *Folia Linguistica*. <https://doi.org/10.1515/flin-2023-2051>

\***Colin Brown**. 2023. Irrealis-marked interrogatives as negative rhetorical questions. vol. 9, no. 1. *Open Linguistics*.

**Colin Brown**, Clarissa Forbes, Michael Schwan. 2020. Clause-type, transitivity, and the transitive vowel in Tsimshianic. In Papers for the 55th International Conference of Salish and Neighbouring Languages. UBCWPL.

**Colin Brown**. 2017. Syntactic ergativity in Gitksan. Proceedings from the 21st annual Workshop on the Constituency of Languages of the Americas. UBCWPL.

#### TO APPEAR

**Colin Brown**, Starr Sandoval. *What to do about what to do? Wh*-infinitives as topic-setting questions. Proceedings from the 56th Annual Meeting of the North East Linguistics Society (NELS 56). University of Massachusetts GLSA.

**Colin Brown**, Harold Torrence. Predicate focus in Dschang. Proceedings from the 10th World Congress of African Linguistics  
Noah Elkins, **Colin Brown**. Free relative clauses in Mam. Proceedings from the annual Workshop on the Constituency of Languages of the Americas. UBCWPL.

**Colin Brown**. Polar questions in Sm'algayax. Proceedings from the annual Workshop on the Constituency of Languages of the Americas. UBCWPL.

#### UNDER REVIEW

Noah Elkins, Harold Torrence, **Colin Brown**. *Wh*-movement paths and oblique extraction in Mam (Mayan).

#### IN PREP

**Colin Brown**, Henry Davis. Final and penultimate position clitics in Tsimshianic. (Manuscript.)

**Colin Brown**. Local and long-distance *wh*-paths in Sm'algayax. (Manuscript.)

**Colin Brown**. Correlates of clausal complementation in Gitksan. (Manuscript.)

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**Colin Brown**. 2024. The form and function of interrogatives in Sm'algayax. Doctoral Dissertation. UCLA.

**Colin Brown**. 2020. Illocutionary mood marking in Sm'algayax. Qualifying Paper. UCLA.

**Colin Brown**. 2016. Extraction restrictions in Gitksan. Master's Thesis. McGill University.

## Presentations

---

### INVITED TALKS

April 10, 2026. *tba*. UBC Linguistics Research Seminar. Vancouver, BC.

May 1, 2025. *Clause typing and clitic linearization in Gitksan*. Simon Fraser University Indigenous Languages Colloquium. Burnaby, BC.

March 3, 2025. *Clitic linearization and morphology*. Guest lecture: Clitics: a View from the Pacific Northwest (Prof. Henry Davis) University of British Columbia. Vancouver, BC.

November 28, 2022. *Interrogative particles in Sm'algayax*. Guest lecture: Advanced Syntax I (Prof. Neda Todorovic) University of Toronto. Toronto, ON.

April 1, 2022. *Variable interrogative flip in Sm'algayax evidential questions*. Invited talk: UC Berkeley Syntax and Semantics Circle. Berkeley, CA.

### PRESENTATIONS

Henry Davis, **Colin Brown**. 2026. *Wh*-questions and focus in predicate-initial languages: evidence from Tsimshianic. Semantics of Under-represented Languages in the Americas (SULA) and Semantics of Languages of Africa, Asia, Australia and Oceania (TripleA) 2026. University of British Columbia. Vancouver, BC. May 12-15.

**Colin Brown**. 2026. Pied-piping with inversion involves inversion. West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL) 44. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Mexico City, Mexico. May 6-7.

**Colin Brown**, Starr Sandoval. 2025. What to do about *what to do?* Root *wh*-infinitives as deliberative non-canonical questions. North East Linguistics Society (NELS) 56. New York University. New York, NY. October 17-19. (Poster presentation)

- Colin Brown.** 2024. Epistemic *la* in Mam: linearization and meaning contribution. *Form and Analysis in Mayan Linguistics (FAMLi)* 7. Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Mexico City, Mexico. February 22–23.
- Colin Brown, Henry Davis.** 2024. A second-last position clitic in Sm’algyax. *North East Linguistics Society (NELS)* 54. Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Cambridge, MA. January 26–27.
- Colin Brown.** 2023. Polar questions in Sm’algyax. *The Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas 2023*. McGill University. Montréal, QC. April 28–30.
- Noah Elkins, **Colin Brown.** 2023. Headless relative clauses in Mam. *The Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas 2023*. McGill University. Montréal, QC. April 28–30.
- Colin Brown.** 2022. Irrealis-marked interrogatives as negative rhetorical questions. *Subjectivity and Intersubjectivity in Language and Culture. Workshop “Non-canonical interrogatives across languages: prosody, semantics, pragmatics”*, Tartu, Estonia. May 12–13.
- Colin Brown.** 2022. Rhetorical questions two ways. *California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics*, University of California, Los Angeles. May 6.
- Colin Brown.** 2022. Information-seeking and non-information-seeking questions with conjectural evidentials. *UBC Gitksan Lab: UBC Linguistics*, Vancouver, BC. April 11.
- Colin Brown, Zhuo Chen, Matthew Czuba, Blake Lehman, Harold Torrence.** 2022. The Inventory of Polar Question Types in Dschang. *The Annual Conference on African Linguistics* 53. University of California, San Diego. April 7–9.
- Colin Brown.** 2021. Variable interrogative flip in evidential questions in Sm’algyax. *Workshop on The Pragmatics of Evidentiality*. Venice, Italy. June 19–21.
- Colin Brown, Harold Torrence.** 2021. Analyzing predicate focus doubling in Dschang. *10th World Congress of African Linguistics*. University of Leiden. June 7–12.
- Colin Brown, Harold Torrence.** 2021. The syntax of predicate focus doubling in Dschang. *Annual Conference of African Linguistics* 51–52. University of Florida. April 8–10.
- Colin Brown, Harold Torrence.** 2021. Predicate Focus Doubling in Dschang: Implications for Clausal Syntax. *Linguistics Society of America 2021*. Held virtually. January 7–10.
- Colin Brown.** 2020. Interrogative mood marking in Sm’algyax. *Linguistics Society of America 2020*. New Orleans, LA. January 2–5.
- Colin Brown.** 2019. Interrogatives at the interface: Sentential mood marking in Sm’algyax. *California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics 2019*. University of Southern California. November 9–10.
- Colin Brown, Clarissa Forbes.** 2018. Three (hidden) obliques in Gitksan. *The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas 2018*. Salt Lake City, UT. January 4–7.
- Colin Brown.** 2016. Revisiting ergativity in Gitksan. *The Workshop on Structure and Constituency in Languages of the Americas 2016*. UQÁM. Montréal, QC. April 1–3.
- Colin Brown.** 2016. A structural account of split ergativity in Gitksan. *Putting Fieldwork on Indigenous Languages to New Uses*. Campinas, Brazil. March 21–April 2. (Poster presentation)
- Colin Brown.** 2016. Absolutive in Tsimshianic. *The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas 2016*. Washington, DC. January 7–10.
- Henry Davis, **Colin Brown.** 2014. Focus and Negative Ellipsis in Gitksan. *International Conference on Salish and Neighbouring Languages* 48. Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. August 2–3.
- Colin Brown.** 2014. Towards a unified semantics of clefts and determiners in Tlingit. *Semantics of Under-represented Languages of the Americas* 8. UBC. Vancouver, BC. May 16–18. (Poster presentation)
- Colin Brown.** 2014. Clefts without Presuppositions? Some evidence from Gitksan. *Semantics of Under-represented Languages of the Americas* 8. UBC. Vancouver, BC. May 16–18.

## Teaching/Academic Experience \_\_\_\_\_

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

- 2026 **FNST220-3: Introduction to Linguistics**, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute/UNBC; Summer
- 2023 **LING120C: Semantics I**, UCLA Linguistics; Summer
- 2022 **LING120B: Syntax I**, UCLA Linguistics; Summer
- 2021 **LING120C: Semantics I**, UCLA Linguistics; Summer
- 2020 **LING160: Field Methods (Cotaught with Blake Lehman)**, UCLA Linguistics; Summer
- 2018 **FNST320-3: The Structure of a First Nations Language (Nisga'a; Tsimshianic)**, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute/UNBC; Summer
- 2018 **FNST220-3: Introduction to Linguistics**, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute/UNBC; Summer
- 2018 **EDEE 223: Language Arts**, Listuguj/McGill B.Ed Program; Summer
- 2016 **FNST220-3: Introduction to Linguistics**, Wilp Wilxo'oskwhl Nisga'a Institute/UNBC; Winter

#### AS TEACHING ASSISTANT

- 2024 **LING1: Introduction to Study of Language (Instructor: Guiseppina Silvestri)**, UCLA Linguistics, Spring
- 2024 **LING1: Introduction to Study of Language (Instructor: Guiseppina Silvestri)**, UCLA Linguistics, Winter
- 2022 **LING120C: Semantics I (Instructor: Yael Sharvit)**, UCLA Linguistics, Winter
- 2021 **LING120B: Syntax I (Instructor: Nicoletta Loccioni)**, UCLA Linguistics, Winter
- 2020 **LING127C: Linguistic Typology and Universals (Instructor: Hilda Koopman)**, UCLA Linguistics, Winter
- 2020 **LING127C: Linguistic Typology and Universals (Instructor: Anoop Mahajan)**, UCLA Linguistics, Fall
- 2019 **LING20: Introduction to Linguistic Theory (Instructor: Guiseppina Silvestri)**, UCLA Linguistics, Fall
- 2019 **LING20: Introduction to Linguistic Theory (Instructor: Thomas Motter)**, UCLA Linguistics, Summer
- 2016 **LING200: Introduction to Linguistics (Instructor: Hadas Kotek)**, McGill Linguistics, Spring
- 2016 **LING200: Introduction to Linguistics (Instructor: Meagan Fowlie)**, McGill Linguistics, Fall

#### OTHER

- 2023 **Research Assistant: Speech Errors Corpus Website**, UCLA Linguistics
- 2021 **Workshop Co-organizer: Sm'algyax Grammar Workshop (with Margaret Anderson and Mique'l Dangeli)**, Juneau, Alaska. June 7-18
- 2018 **Workshop Organizer: Grammar, writing, and academic success. Listuguj/McGill B.Ed Program**, Listuguj, QC. March 20-23.
- 2016-2017 **Research Assistant: McGill Ergativity Lab**, McGill Linguistics
- 2013 **Research Assistant: Gitksan Research Lab**, UBC Linguistics

#### Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

---

2024-2026	<b>Postdoctoral Fellowship</b> , Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	\$ 140,000 CAD
2024	<b>Jacobs Research Funds</b> , Whatcom Museum/University of Washington Libraries	\$ 3000 USD
2023	<b>Ladefoged Scholarship</b> , UCLA	\$ 1,500 USD
2022-2023	<b>Dissertation Year Fellowship</b> , UCLA	\$ 37,000 USD
2022-2023	<b>Harry and Yvonne Lenart Graduate Travel Fellowship</b> , UCLA	\$ 8,000 USD
2022	<b>Ladefoged Scholarship</b> , UCLA	\$ 1,500 USD
2019	<b>Canadian Studies Award</b> , UCLA	\$ 1,000 USD
2018-2022	<b>Doctoral Fellowship</b> , Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	\$ 80,000 CAD
2018-2021	<b>Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships-Doctoral</b> , Declined for SSHRC above	\$ 105,000 CAD
2018-2022	<b>Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship</b> , UCLA	\$ 34,000 USD
2018-2019	<b>Graduate Dean Scholar's Award</b> , UCLA	\$ 14,500 USD
2015	<b>Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarships-Master's</b> , Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council	\$ 17,500 CAD
2014	<b>Grad Excellence Award in Linguistics</b> , McGill University	\$ 7,000 CAD
2010	<b>Leon Fus Memorial Prize</b> , UBC	\$ 700 CAD

## Outreach & Professional Development

---

### SERVICE AND OUTREACH

- 2026 SSHRC Canada Graduate Research Scholarship – Doctoral program, Committee Member
- 2022 Fieldwork Job Search Committee UCLA Linguistics Department, Committee Member
- 2020-2021 UCLA Graduate Linguistics Council, President

### PEER REVIEW

Oxford University Press

Canadian Journal of Linguistics/Revue canadienne de linguistique

Language Science Press

The Annual Conference on African Linguistics

## Languages

---

**English** – Native

**French** – Intermediate

**Spanish** – Intermediate

**Polish** – Pre-intermediate

**Sm'algyax** – Research

**Gitksan** – Research

**Mam** – Research

**Dschang** – Research